

GOD IS . . . COMING AGAIN

by Debbie Ciampoli
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CHARACTERS - PEOPLE:

WORSHIP LEADER
PETER
JOEY
BRIDE
GROOM
10 BRIDESMAIDS
SOLDIER
SAUL
SAUL'S CROWD
VOICE ANNOUNCING BRIDEGROOM

CHARACTERS - PUPPETS:

CROOK
JAMES

PROPS:

CLOUDS WITH PICTURE OF GREG LAURIE
BENCH & BUS STOP SIGN
BACKPACK/NOTEBOOK
PUPPET STAGE
PAIR OF BULLS
PEAR & BOWL
PAIR OF BOWLS
DOOR OF HOUSE
BRIDE & GROOM ATTIRE
ROBES, CURLERS, SNACKS
SAUL & SOLDIER'S ATTIRE
BIBLICAL ATTIRE FOR CROWD
FAKE STONES

SPECIAL EFFECTS:

TIME TRAVEL MUSIC
SPOTLIGHT FOR STEPHEN
"I SHALL SEE GOD"
BUS HORN SOUND

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LIGHT CUE - UP ON SINGERS & PORTABLE STAGE

CUE SONG - SHOUT IT OUT

WORSHIP LEADER - *Recaps last few weeks of "God Is" and introduces this week's theme. He begins to share with the kids about Jesus Christ's returning in the clouds with "great glory". When clouds roll down showing faces of "Greg Laurie" he explains that it's with "great glory" not "Greg Laurie"*

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON SINGERS, PORTABLE & HOUSE
UP ON STAGE LEFT

Two kids sitting on bench waiting for bus. Joey starts rummaging frantically through a backpack or notebook.

PETER: HEY JOEY, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

JOEY: *(desperate)* WHERE IS IT? WHAT COULD I HAVE DONE WITH IT? *(slight pause, hangs head)* WELL, IT'S NOT IN HERE. THAT'S IT. I'M DEAD!

PETER: WHADYA LOSE?

JOEY: MY TEACHER GAVE US THIS REALLY IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT THAT HAS TO DO WITH PARABLES. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT A PARABLE IS! AND NOW I'VE GONE AND LOST THE PAPER WITH ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS.

PETER: WELL THINK JOEY, WHERE WAS THE LAST PLACE YOU SAW IT?

JOEY: *(smacks his hand on his head)* THAT'S IT! I LEFT IT AT HOME ON THE DRESSER.

PETER: WELL...ANOTHER MYSTERY SOLVED *(rubs his knuckles across chest)* WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM A VERY SMART FRIEND!

JOEY: WELL, VERY SMART FRIEND, THAT STILL DOESN'T HELP ME FIND OUT WHAT A PARABLE IS. MAYBE I SHOULD GO HOME AND GET IT.

PETER: NO, BAD IDEA. YOU'D MISS THE BUS FOR SURE. THERE MUST BE SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP.....

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CROOK: *(puppet comes up and acts like a crook who sells hot merchandise)*
PSST! PSST! HEY....YOU. *(kids look around, then back at puppet)* YEAH,
YOU TWO. *(kids walk over to crook)* I, UH, COULDN'T HELP BUT
OVERHEAR YOUR DILEMMA. AND MAY I SAY I SYMPATHIZE WITH
YOU.

KIDS: *(Kids look at each other again and back to puppet)* YEAH, SO?

CROOK: WELL, I, UH, MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU. I'M HAVING A SPECIAL
SALE TODAY ON PARABLES. THAT'S RIGHT, TODAY IS DEFINITELY
YOUR LUCKY DAY.

JOEY: WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR PARABLES?

CROOK: NOW NEVER YOU MIND ABOUT THAT. ARE YOU INTERESTED OR
AIN'T YAH?

KIDS: *(kids look at one another and answer in agreement)* OH, YEAH WE'RE
INTERESTED, YEAH!

CROOK: WELL GOOD. THESE LITTLE BEAUTIES *(holds up pair of bulls)* WILL
ONLY RUN YOU FIVE BUCKS.

PETER: THAT'S NOT A PARABLE. THAT'S A PAIR OF BULLS. WHO ARE YOU
TRYING TO FOOL ANYWAY?

CROOK: OH, SO IT IS....WELL HOLD ON, I KNOW I GOT WHAT YOU'RE
LOOKIN FOR. JUST GIMME A MINUTE TO FIND IT. AH, HERE IT IS.
(holds up a pear and a bowl)

JOEY: NO....THAT'S A PEAR AND A BOWL. THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.

CROOK: LOOK KID, YOU'RE STARTIN TO GET ON MY NERVES. I'VE GOT
ONE LAST ITEM THAT I'M SURE YOU'RE GONNA WANT. *(holds up pair
of bowls)*

Two boys look at each other in exasperation and shake their heads no.

PETER: THAT'S A PAIR OF BOWLS, NOT A PARABLE.

JOEY: I'M DOOMED!

JAMES: *(appears at the door of house)* EXCUSE ME...I DON'T MEAN TO
INTRUDE, BUT I BELIEVE THAT I MIGHT BE OF SOME HELP. YOU SEE
I'M JAMES, THE BIBLE, AND WITHIN MY PAGES LIE ALL OF THE
TRUTHS OF GOD'S WORD.

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JOEY: DO YOU THINK YOU COULD TELL ME A PARABLE?

JAMES: I CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT! I CAN SHOW YOU ONE.

PETER: OH, BUT WE CAN'T LEAVE, WE'RE WAITING FOR OUR BUS.

JAMES: I PROMISE I'LL HAVE YOU BACK IN TIME TO CATCH YOUR BUS.

Kids shrug shoulders. James opens door of house & kids walk through and disappear during time travel music.

SOUND CUE - TIME TRAVEL MUSIC

PETER: WHOA! COOL!

JOEY: THAT WAS AWESOME! BUT, WHERE ARE WE?

JAMES: WE'RE AT THE PARABLE OF THE TEN BRIDESMAIDS.

PETER: BUT WHAT IS A PARABLE, JAMES?

JAMES: IT'S A STORY ABOUT COMMON THINGS THAT HAVE A HIDDEN SPIRITUAL MEANING. WATCH AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE MEANING BEHIND THIS STORY.....

LIGHT CUE - UP ON CENTER STAGE, DOWN STAGE LEFT

Bridesmaids and bride come running in. They all begin to attend to the bride, fixing her hair, straightening her clothes, etc.

BRIDE: OH, WHERE IS MY BELOVED? HE MUST BE COMING SOON!

BRIDESMAID 1: I'M SURE HE CAN'T WAIT TO BE WITH YOU.

BRIDESMAID 2: YOU'RE SO LUCKY. I WISH I HAD SOMEONE AS WONDERFUL AS YOU DO.

BRIDESMAID 3: WELL IT'S GETTING REALLY LATE. I DON'T THINK HE'LL COME TODAY.

BRIDESMAID 4: PROBABLY NOT. WHY DON'T WE GO GET SOMETHING TO EAT WHILE WE WAIT?

BRIDESMAID 5: I REALLY NEED TO WASH MY HAIR. IF HE DOESN'T GET

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HERE SOON, I'M OUTTA HERE!

BRIDESMAID 1: BUT WHAT IF HE COMES AND YOU'RE NOT READY?

BRIDESMAID 3: THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF TIME. I'M SURE WE'LL BE READY. BESIDES I'M (*yawning*) GETTING REALLY SLEEPY!

BRIDESMAID 2: WELL I'M NOT LEAVING! I'M GONNA STAY RIGHT HERE AND MAKE SURE THAT I DON'T GET LEFT BEHIND. I WANT TO BE READY FOR WHENEVER HE COMES.

A couple respond in agreement while the five foolish ones leave.

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON CENTER STAGE, UP ON STAGE LEFT

JOEY: SO JAMES, ARE **WE** THE BRIDESMAIDS IN THE STORY?

JAMES: VERY GOOD JOEY, WE ARE.

PETER: BUT WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

JAMES: WE'RE WAITING FOR CHRIST'S RETURN! THAT WONDERFUL DAY WHEN JESUS COMES BACK FOR ALL OF HIS PEOPLE!

JOEY: BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE FIVE THAT LEFT?

JAMES: WE'LL COME BACK TO THEM IN A FEW MINUTES....BUT RIGHT NOW WE HAVE SOMEWHERE ELSE THAT WE NEED TO GO.....

SOUND CUE - TIME TRAVEL MUSIC

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON STAGE LEFT, UP ON SINGERS

CUE SONG - "FOREVER" (short version)

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON SINGERS, UP ON STAGE RIGHT

SOUND CUE - TIME TRAVEL MUSIC

Kids and James pop up stage right. Stephen (tied up) is led in by soldier (followed by crowd)

PETER: WHO'S THAT, JAMES?

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JAMES: THAT'S STEPHEN. HE SPOKE WITH GREAT POWER THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT. SAUL AND THESE MEN ARE VERY ANGRY WITH HIM.

STEPHEN: YOU STIFF-NECKED PEOPLE. YOU ARE JUST LIKE YOUR FATHERS. THEY KILLED THOSE WHO PREDICTED THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH, AND NOW YOU HAVE BETRAYED AND MURDERED HIM!

The crowd becomes outraged at his words.

SAUL: YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO SPEAK THESE WORDS.

LIGHT CUE - SPOT ON STEPHEN

At that moment lights shine on Stephen. He looks up to heaven and sees the glory of God.

STEPHEN: LOOK, I SEE HEAVEN OPEN AND THE SON OF MAN STANDING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.

CUE SONG - "I SHALL SEE GOD"

The crowd covers their ears and begin yelling loudly. They rush at Stephen and begin to stone him.

STEPHEN: *(on his knees praying, looks up and says)* LORD JESUS, RECEIVE MY SPIRIT. LORD DO NOT HOLD THIS SIN AGAINST THEM. *(falls down)*

LIGHT CUE - SPOT DOWN ON STEPHEN

PETER: THAT'S REALLY SAD.

JOEY: JAMES, WHY ARE WE HERE?

JAMES: BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO SEE THAT WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR THE LORD'S RETURN SOMETIMES GOD ALLOWS BAD THINGS TO HAPPEN TO PEOPLE.

PETER: BUT WHY DOES GOD LET PEOPLE DIE?

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JAMES: BECAUSE GOD KNOWS THAT DEATH ISN'T THE END, IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING OF OUR LIFE IN HEAVEN WITH JESUS. STEPHEN GOT TO SEE GOD, JUST LIKE WE WILL WHEN THE LORD COMES FOR US.

JOEY: I'M ACTUALLY GOING TO *SEE* GOD? I CAN'T WAIT FOR THAT DAY!

VOICE: (*rings out loudly*) THE BRIDEGROOM IS COMING . . . THE BRIDEGROOM IS COMING . . .

JAMES: WE'D BETTER HURRY

SOUND CUE - TIME TRAVEL MUSIC

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON STAGE RIGHT, UP CENTER STAGE & PORTABLE

Kids & James pop back up at the bride scene. Groom runs up on the stage and sweeps up the bride.

GROOM: SHALL WE GO?

BRIDE: OH YES, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

*Bride and Groom exit stage left followed by the five wise bridesmaids. They **LOUDLY** close the door.*

BRIDESMAIDS #6-10: (*the five foolish bridesmaids run down the middle aisle in curlers, robes, eating, and just not being ready. They get to the door and begin pounding on it, but the door is not opened*) LET US IN! PLEASE LET US COME TOO.

JOEY: HOW SAD THAT THEY WEREN'T READY WHEN THE LORD CAME. I HOPE I'LL BE READY!

JAMES: JESUS SAID THAT NO MAN KNOWS THE DAY OR THE HOUR, SO WE MUST **ALWAYS** BE READY AND WATCHING! BUT WE'D BETTER GET YOU BACK SO THAT YOU DON'T MISS THAT BUS.

SOUND CUE - TIME TRAVEL MUSIC

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON CENTER STAGE & PORTABLE, UP ON STAGE LEFT

Kids and James pop up back at bus stop.

JAMES: I HOPE I'VE BEEN SOME HELP TO YOU!

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JOEY: YOU HAVE! MY TEACHER'S NOT GONNA BELIEVE HOW GREAT MY REPORT'S GONNA BE!

JOEY & PETER: GOODBYE JAMES. THANKS AGAIN! (sit back down on bench).

PETER: I HOPE WE DIDN'T MISS OUR BUS

JOEY: I'M SURE WE DIDN'T. HEY PETER, GUESS WHAT?

PETER: WHAT?

JOEY: WE'RE KINDA ACTIN OUT A PARABLE RIGHT HERE.

PETER: WE ARE?

JOEY: YEAH, BECAUSE WAITING FOR THE BUS IS KINDA LIKE US BEING CHRISTIANS AND WAITING FOR THE LORD TO RETURN.

PETER: YEAH, YOU'RE NEVER SURE WHEN EITHER ONE WILL COME!

JOEY: OH, I ALMOST FORGOT! JAMES GAVE ME A SCRIPTURE THAT HE WANTED US TO SHARE WITH THE PEOPLE. MAYBE THESE KIDS WILL REPEAT IT WITH US.

REPEAT AFTER ME:

THEN THEY WILL SEE
THE SON OF MAN
COMING IN A CLOUD
WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY.

LUKE 21:27

SOUND CUE - BUS HORN NOISE

LIGHT CUE - UP ON SINGERS & PORTABLE

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WORSHIP LEADER: OH HERE COMES THE BUS! MAYBE SOMEDAY
SOON INSTEAD OF THE BUS HORN WE'LL BE HEARING THE TRUMPET
ANNOUNCING JESUS' RETURN!

JOEY & PETER: I HOPE SO!

WORSHIP LEADER: Closing Prayer

CUE SONG - WHAT ABOUT HEAVEN
